

REMARKS

A. Status of the Claims

By the present amendment claim 159 has been canceled. All other pending claims, i.e., claims 148, 149, 152-158, and 160-170 have been allowed.

B. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 159 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over International Patent Application No. WO 99/16136 to Mills et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,045,240 to Hochstein.

While the Applicants respectfully disagree that claim 159 is unpatentable over Mills in view of Hochstein, in the interests of advancing the process of prosecution of the current application, claim 159 has been canceled without prejudice.

Accordingly, the rejection has become moot. Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

In re Application of:
Ostler et al.
Application No.: 09/801,351
Filed: March 7, 2001
Page 7

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: MBM1410

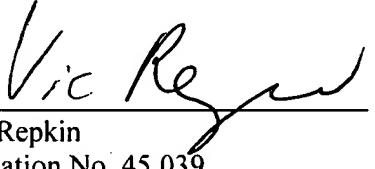
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to the undersigned if there are any questions relating to this application.

No fee is believed due in connection with the filing of this paper. However, if any fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are required, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 07-1896 referencing the above-identified attorney docket number. A copy of the Transmittal Sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Victor Repkin
Registration No. 45,039
Attorney for Applicants
Telephone: (858) 638-6664
Facsimile: (858) 677-1465

DLA PIPER US LLP
4365 Executive Drive, Suite 1100
San Diego, CA 92121-2133
USPTO CUSTOMER NUMBER 28213